

**To:** Burke, Thomas[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov]  
**From:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 1:47:15 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Version 2 - Draft - Confidential - Draft statement for sediment

Excellent Tom,

**Nonresponsive**

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 7:38 PM, Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov> wrote:

Shaun, I think we are good to go on the RSLs for sediment levels. Also, there is strong consistent data indicating that dermal absorption is very minimal. With common sense measures such as washing, exposure would be very low and not at the level of concern.

Glad that the sediment data are looking good. Turns out our sediment modeling folks felt that impact would be small and dispersed well down river because of the gradual change in the acidity of the plume.

Let's stay in close touch about messaging.

Tom

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
202-564-6620  
[burke.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:burke.thomas@epa.gov)

On Aug 13, 2015, at 7:19 PM, McGrath, Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov> wrote:

Tom

Christy will send us an email. She said that they developed RSLs for both water and sediment, and she is forwarding that to us.

Shaun

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 4:49 PM, Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov> wrote:

**Personal Matters/Ex. 6**

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
202-564-6620  
[burke.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:burke.thomas@epa.gov)

On Aug 13, 2015, at 6:42 PM, McGrath, Shaun <[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov](mailto:McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov)>  
wrote:

## Personal Matters/Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 4:39 PM, Burke, Thomas <[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov](mailto:Burke.Thomas@epa.gov)>  
wrote:

Makes good sense.

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
202-564-6620  
[burke.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:burke.thomas@epa.gov)

On Aug 13, 2015, at 6:16 PM, McGrath, Shaun  
<[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov](mailto:McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov)> wrote:

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hestmark, Martin" <[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov](mailto:Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 13, 2015 at 3:09:50 PM MDT  
**To:** "McGrath, Shaun" <[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov](mailto:McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov)>, "Card, Joan" <[Card.Joan@epa.gov](mailto:Card.Joan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Version 2 - Draft - Confidential - Draft statement for sediment

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**From:** McKean, Deborah  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:41 PM  
**To:** Hestmark, Martin  
This is the the statement with the previous ATSDR statement  
  
**Subject:** Version 2 - Draft - Confidential - Draft statement for sediment

The sediment samples collected in the Animas River have been analyzed and validated. The interpretation of these results has included a comparison to background to determine if the metal concentrations are consistent with pre-incident levels. Metal results that exceeded pre-incident levels were subsequently compared to risk-based screening levels. These results indicate that minor exceedances of background concentrations were observed for lead, copper and cadmium. However, comparison to risk-based screening values found these exceedances to be within acceptable risk levels. The interpretation of these data was a collaborative effort that included state and local members of the unified command.

**Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

**Deborah L. McKean, Ph.D.**

Chief, Superfund Technical Assistance

U.S. EPA, Region 8

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